

23 p 1 pneu 46  
Acers  
ambrosia - 1870  
Hill

12 1/2

67

3. 11. 47

Dear Miss Kitching,

In reply to your letter of 24th ultimo, I am afraid I am rather hazy about the whole thing, but will tell you all I am definite about. My Aunt (Jane Smith) and Miss Aikens (<sup>Wrens, Miss, Excl</sup> spelling doubtful) set up a private school at Alton, Hants, after leaving College and Miss Mason stayed with them while she was preparing her Geography Book. I have vivid memories of my aunts admiration of her courage as she was ill at the time and was working on her book whilst lying on the sofa.

1950 x 3 p 2 p 11 46  
80  
1870

my aunt was trained at Whitelands College, about 80 years ago and I had the impression that a friendship was formed there, the three being at college together (I may be incorrect here).

Had I been interested in P.N.E.U. during my aunt's lifetime, I should probably have been much more helpful than now. I hope, however, I have been of some little use to you in your big and devoted undertaking.

Yours sincerely,  
Dennis Mart.

24 P 1 p 254 46

The Close House  
Henbury  
Bristol  
18th Oct.

Dear Mrs is stitching,

I intended putting  
a message on my husband's  
letter to send my good wishes  
for your book, but he says  
you can't write on that sort-  
of paper!..

I remember very vividly  
talking to my husband's  
Aunt Jane about Mrs Mason  
having stayed with her and  
Mrs (~~Mason~~) while writing her  
Acorns



24 p 3 pncu 46  
geography book. Miss Mason  
was at that time not well &  
came home very tired after her  
country walks. She used to lie  
on a little sofa (you know the  
kind with a head piece & no arms)  
to write up her notes. She  
must have been a brave spirit.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Winifred H Smart

The Close House,

Hensbury,

Bristol.

October 19th. 1949.

Dear Miss Kitching,

Your letter of 17th inst. has given me a thrill in that it was more probably my Mother who started the friendship between Miss Mason and my Aunt Jane Smith who was very definitely a student at the Whitelands Training College and was there granted her Certificate. This was before my mother went to College.

My mother went to the Home and Colonial College but her Certificate is not now apparently in existence though I have turned up the attached letters which should fix the date of her entry into College as 1870. If, therefore you have the date of Miss Mason's entry we shall establish the cue or otherwise. I have also found this old photograph of my mother's year; it shows her very clearly and also her close friend Mrs Gardiner (whose maiden name I do not remember and who died many years ago.) I am afraid the photograph will not lend itself very well to magnification but it is just possible that you may be able to recognise Miss Mason (if there !).

On leaving College my mother became headmistress of the Shepton Mallett Schools in Somerset and in 1875 had accepted the Headship of the Basingstoke School in Hants where she was in lodgings which would account for Miss Mason staying at my Aunt's <sup>private school</sup> ~~country~~ at Alton instead of with my mother.

With reference to myself, all is going well with this "All Standard School" though we are to be "Ploughed under" in the modern Secondary Modern and Primary grouping and our most picturesque village is becoming a part of the extended TOWN. I shall not see much of this as I retire next August and my wife and I have already booked our berth for a year's trip to Australia to visit relations.

We trust you are enjoying your very nobly earned retirement and wish you success and happiness in your book on the life of your very dear friend, our great CHARLOTTE MASON.

Yours sincerely,

*Kenia Smith*

P.T.O.

25 p 2 p 700 40

P.S.

My Aunt's Private School at Alton apparently was not a great success as she abandoned it to make use of her Board of Education Certificate at Bromham, Wilts----this by the way to show that Whitelands did grant Teaching Certificates prior to 1870 at least !

1874

don't think



8 Priory Close  
 Worthing.

Dear Miss Kitching

I am returning with very  
 many thanks C. S. Lewis'   
 Transposition and other addresses  
 I hope I have not kept it too  
 long, but I have not had much  
 time for reading, and I wanted to  
 read parts of it at least twice.  
 Like you, I like best "The  
 Weight of Glory."

I have "looked up" in a

recent book on Worthing, about  
 the Davison School. It was as  
 I thought. The Rev. William Davison  
 was "Chaplain" to the Chapel of  
 Ease to Broadwater Church,  
 in fact he was its first Chaplain.  
 This Chapel of Ease was Worthing's  
 first Church and was opened in  
 1812. Broadwater is the mother-

-Church of Worthing parish being  
 originally a unit or so outside  
 the town. It is very ancient & a  
 beautiful building.

The Chapel of Ease later became  
 a separate Church, & was  
 known as "St Paul's". Its Chaplain  
 became a Vicar.

The Rev. Wm Davison had  
 opened the first church elementary  
 school in England. He had  
 "several a bare and collection  
~~the~~ boys & girls within its  
 walls, and imparted to them the  
 rudiments of the Christian faith  
 and the three R's +  
 "On his death, in recognition  
 of his services, a school was  
 built by his many admirers  
 and named after him." This  
 school still stands -- and that  
 is always been companion to the  
 enrolled as one of its scholars."

This quotation is from an article  
 by the Rev. Canon E. W. D. Penfold  
 who died ~~this~~ <sup>last</sup> year, & was a curate  
 at St Paul's when young.



26 p 4 pnc 46

I think Miss Mason must have been Head of the original school though - when she knew it, it was no longer in a barn. The build-up was not a very good one though - but it still stands & is used for meetings.

"Davison's" which she evidently helped to found, was a girl's school ever since I can remember it, so the other mixed school evidently ceased to exist. I hope you had a very happy Christmas.

With New Year greetings

Yours sincerely  
Winifred Gillespie

27 2256 96

LOW NOOK.  
The Parents' Union School,  
Ambleside.  
Westmorland.

January 12th, 1950.

Dear Miss Gillespie,

Thank you gratefully for your most helpful letter and for the great trouble you have taken to give me information about the Davison School. This will help me as a kind of bridge to the various odd notes that I have. Mr. Davison must have been succeeded by Mr. William Read as 'Chaplin' to whom Miss Mason went to continue her studies in the theory of education as she was too frail to live in London, and with whom she gained her experience in the school attached to the Chapel of Ease of which Miss Read was the manager. I have a copy of the sermon preached by the Rev. J. Brooke Patrick who was curate of the Chapel of Ease, Worthing, and who preached the memorial sermon to Miss Read in January 1867 - she died before her father. Miss Mason wrote ~~of~~ Miss Read with the greatest affection and respect, so this would all have happened I expect before the name 'St. Paul's' was used. I have two undated letters written by Miss Mason about 1864. She had evidently been asked to sketch out a plan giving the aim, scope and cost of a mixed school, and I am wondering very much if this could have been an answer to someone helping to found the Davison school in memory of Mr. Davison. You know that rather grasping proverb, 'Much would have more' this is only rather a greedy reminder that if you should ever come across any further information on the subject I should be more than grateful.

~~With love and~~ with all good wishes for the new year,

Yours sincerely,

Copy.

inuse

i 8 p 1 p n e u 46

56, Ashdown Road,  
Wootton.

17. XII. 50

Dear Miss Kitching.

I have received from Miss  
Bonner-Taylor your letter, and have made  
enquiries about the information you require,  
but as the old log books are not at  
school, and the correspondent, Col. Randolph  
has been indisposed, I have been unable  
to obtain it, but hope to do so in the  
near future.

An Aunt of mine who is now  
80, attended the school when she was  
9, & there were then ~~no~~ Infants &  
Girls' departments. Considering the population  
of Wootton at the dates require I think



the 200 would be girls - infants together.

Strangely enough, when the present head of Davison taught in her first school at Bradford, it was one working out the Charlotte Mason schemes.

I am sorry not to be more helpful.

Yours truly,

L. J. Dunn.



HEAD MISTRESS:  
MISS N. A. TATE

TELEPHONE 3835

29 p 1 p 704 46

WORTHING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

DAVISON GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL,

WORTHING.

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 195...

Dear Madam,

I feel very guilty that I have not replied to your letter earlier.

I worked for the first seven years of my teaching life after leaving College. 1921 - 1928. in a Girls' All Standard School, in which the P.N.G.V. Method was very flourishing under a Head-mistress of the name of Miss Abbs. She herself was a great educationist but unfortunately she retired when the school was reorganised & became a Senior Girls' School under the Hadon Scheme & so.

the P.N.E.U. Method came to an end.

Miss Ambler had already retired when I began my teaching career. & so had Mr. Dodd. M.A. I remember Mrs. Steinthal's name being mentioned to me long. Miss Abbs. & I should imagine that as the outcome of the meeting held at Highfield mentioned in your letter the method was taken up not only by Miss Ambler but also by Miss Abbs. I am under the impression that six Bradford Schools were asked to give it a trial. and Miss Abbs. retained the method longer than any other school. - I personally was very happy working under that method

You will also be interested to know that I mentioned to the



19 p 3 pncu 46



WORTHING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

DAVISON GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
WORTHING.

HEAD MISTRESS:  
MISS N. A. TATE

TELEPHONE 3835

.....195...

Borough Education Officer your letter  
she produced from the Strong Room the  
Log Book that Miss Charlotte Mason  
wrote when she was Head of the  
School. It is a very interesting  
document and one of the oldest  
Log Books in the country. Amazingly  
enough the Ministry has just issued  
a circular to Local Authorities asking  
them to preserve Log Books from 1860  
onwards as they are so scarce & have  
such little <sup>careful</sup> history of the schools.  
How times have changed!

Please once again accept my  
sincere apologies for my tardiness  
in writing

Yours sincerely,  
N. A. Tate.